



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Kazunori Taniguchi, et al.

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No:** 10/784,634

**Art Unit:** Unassigned

**Filed:** February 23, 2004

**Docket:** 17469

**For:** SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

**Dated:** June 7, 2004

**Conf. No.:** 2589

Mail Stop Missing Parts  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

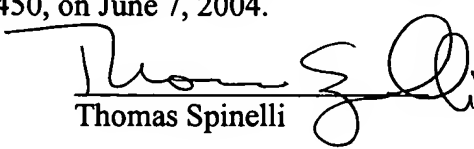
In connection with the above-identified patent application and in response to the Notice to File Corrected Application papers issued on May 19, 2004, kindly enter the following preliminary amendment.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 7, 2004.

Dated: June 7, 2004

  
Thomas Spinelli